[Mr. S. Sundararajan]

for providing work in the various public undertakings of Government and to give relief, in co-operation wherever possible with the employers, to those in real distress until employment is found for them. Such relief, will take the form of a grant of rice. A small committee consisting of some of the local officers and one or two non-officials representing organised labour and the employers respectively will be in charge of the work.

RURAL UPLIFT.

56. Another direction in which Government have for some time been endeavouring to secure the happiness of the people is under Rural Uplift. The cry "back to the villages" which we often hear elsewhere has happily for the State never been heard here. This State is more rural than urban, and it has been the declared policy of Government to develop rural areas. With this object in view, seven Village Panchayats were established under the Village Panchayat Act VII of 1100. Twenty-six Village Unions have since been newly constituted in selected localities in 26 taluks as the first instalment of a scheme for rehabilitating the Panchayat system. It is the desire of the Government to extend the scope of the scheme to as many villages as possible. They have accordingly allowed a liberal provision of Rs 60,000 under the head.

57. Government have also been fully alive to the presistent cry for more dispensaries and hospitals in rural parts and although considerations of finance have prevented them from embarking on a very ambitious policy, they feel that something should be done and it is accordingly proposed to send such of the energetic, enterprising of the unemployed medical men available to open dispensaries in the area covered by each Village Panchayat Union and themselves to finance such dispensaries in part leaving the balance to be met by the Panchayat Committees. It is also considered important that the contribution of Government should be in the shape of drugs and medicines and not cash. For the present, it is proposed to start the system with four Panchayats. I have already spoken to you of the directions in which the Veterinary Department will be serving the country including the villages. With a self-contained scheme for relief and development in all directions, it is hoped that villages will become self-sufficient although not isolated.

Other Services.

58. Under this category prominent mention should be made of the Census operations. The decennial census is proposed to be conducted early in 1941 and *inter alia* enquiries bearing on cottage industries, fragmentation of agricultural

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